

Hamtai language

Hamtai (also called *Hamday* or *Kapau*) is the most populous of the Angan languages of Papua New Guinea. It is also known as Kamea, Kapau, and Watut. Dialects are Wenta, Howi, Pmasa’a, Hamtai proper, and Kaintiba.^[3] The language was unwritten until 2009.^[4]

Contents
Phonology
Vowels
Consonants
References

Phonology

In Hamtai, there are 14 consonants, 7 vowels, and two tones (rising and falling).

Vowels

Table of vowels in Hamtai^[5]^[6]

	Front	Central	Back
<u>Close</u>	i /i/	i /ɿ/	u /u/
<u>Close-mid</u>	e /e/		o /o/
<u>Open-mid</u>			ä, aa /ʌ/
<u>Open</u>		a /a/	

Consonants

Hamtai	
Hamday	
Kapau	
Native to	Papua New Guinea
Region	Morobe Province, Gulf Province
Native speakers	45,000 (1998) ^[1]
Language family	Trans–New Guinea <div>▪ Angan<div>▪ Southeast<div>▪ Hamtai</div></div></div>
Dialects	Wenta <div>Howi</div> <div>Pmasa'a</div> <div>Hamtai Proper</div> <div>Kaintiba</div>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	hmt
Glottolog	hamt1247 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/hamt1247) ^[2]

Table of consonant phonemes in Hamtai^[5]

		<u>Labial</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>	<u>Uvular</u>	<u>Glottal</u>
<u>Nasal</u>		m /m/	n /n/		ng /ŋ/		
<u>Plosive</u>		p /p/	t /t/		k /k/	k̤/q /q/	' /ʔ/
<u>Approximant</u>	<u>voiced</u>			y /j/	w /w/		
	<u>unvoiced</u>				wh /w̥/		
<u>Fricative</u>	<u>voiced</u>	v /v/					
	<u>unvoiced</u>	f /f/					h /h/

References

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3. <https://www.ethnologue.com/language/hmt>
4. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-46336355>
5. Healy, Alan (1981). *The Phonological Complexity of Kapau*. Ukarumpa: Summer Institute of Linguistics. p. 95.
6. Oates, W.; Oates, L. (1968). *Kapau pedagogical grammar*. Canberra, Australia: The Australian National University. pp. 7–8.

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